



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Outreach & Autism Screening Clinic

#### **Ron Brennan, MD**

Dr. Brennan received his medical education from Harvard College, Dartmouth, and Seattle Children's Hospital. After working for 10 years as a pediatrician in the Alaska Native Health Service in Bethel, he completed a 2-year fellowship in developmental disabilities and returned to Alaska in 1992. Since that time, he has worked as a neurodevelopmental pediatrician for the Children's Hospital at Providence. He is currently the Director of the Center for Children with Special Needs at the Children's Hospital at Providence in Anchorage and serves as a consultant with the State of Alaska for neurodevelopmental issues.

#### **Teresa Hirst, ANP**

Ms. Hirst is a certified advanced practice pediatric nurse practitioner with extensive specialized experience in assessments and evaluations of children with neurodevelopmental and autism disorders from birth to age 12 years. She routinely provides patient, family, and provider education on pediatric neurodevelopmental disorders in children.

#### **William Walker, MD**

Dr. Walker served as a pediatric neurodevelopmental specialist with the US Army for 22 years and in 2001 moved to the role of Chief of Developmental Medicine with the Seattle Children's Hospital. He's an experienced clinician, seeing children of all ages with concerns across the broad spectrum of developmental and behavioral pediatrics. To better meet the needs of Alaskans in higher population centers, he comes to Fairbanks for 2-days in the spring and to Juneau for 1-day in the fall to assist in meeting the needs of children and families.

#### **Parent Navigation Services (Suzie Klein - 561-3701)**

Parent Navigation Services are provided by a professional parent navigator from the Stone Soup Group. She provides support, recommendations, and information on the process of accessing and getting services for children affected with neurodevelopmental disorders.

**Kris Green, Clinic Coordinator**

**907.269.3428** (phone) ♦ **907.269.3432** (fax) ♦ **kristine.green@alaska.gov**



# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

### Pediatric Neurodevelopmental Outreach & Autism Screening Clinic

#### General Referral Guidelines

This is a neurodevelopmental screening and consultation clinic and is not meant to be part of any multi-disciplinary assessment to establish a developmental or educational diagnosis. Rather, this initial consultation is meant to determine the need for additional evaluations; to share information & impressions; and/or make recommendations for the child's family and primary care provider (PCP).

- Appointments are scheduled based on the following priorities: young children under 6 with global delays or suspicion of autism; older children with concerns of autism or a child with autism with new medically documented significant changes; and finally other neurodevelopmental disorders or delays.
- Children must be under the care of a PCP or medical home & seen within the past 6-months. Medical documentation of developmental concerns is needed from the PCP at the time of the referral.
- Parents and the PCP should discuss and coordinate the goals for the referral along with the plan for post-evaluation recommendations.
- As part of the referral process, summaries and documented testing from special education services, therapies, early intervention, mental or behavioral health, and Head Start will be asked for.

#### The Appointment

- During the appointment, the provider will take the child's history, examine the child, and review documents. Near the end, the provider will share with the family information, impressions, and recommendations. The appointment typically lasts 2.5 hours. Parents should plan accordingly for their child's needs by bringing snacks and favorite toys for distractions. Because childcare is NOT provided, it is strongly recommended that alternative arrangements for siblings are made.
- Families will meet with the parent navigator after meeting with the neurodevelopmental specialist to discuss the next steps in any recommendations that are made during the appointment.
- This is a billable appointment and insurance information is needed. We provide this services on a sliding scale for those without insurance. Insurance and/or funding for both the travel and the cost of the appointment is the parent's responsibility. Photo ID of the parent, insurance verification, and legal guardian's documentation giving permission to seek medical treatment on the child's behalf must be provided.

#### After the Appointment

- Within 30 days the family, along with others identified by the family, will receive a written summary of the recommendations. Ongoing care is coordinated by the child's PCC provider with assistance of the parent navigator.
- Parent navigation is available to assist the family finding financial resources, make appointments, coordinate travel for further testing, and to local therapy or support providers.
- The State of Alaska, Section of Women's Children and Family Health is the office of record and will maintain files, summaries and limited documentation association with the appointment.

**Kris Green, Clinic Coordinator**

**907.269.3428** (phone) ♦ **907.269.3432** (fax) ♦ **kristine.green@alaska.gov**